

**Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council**  
**c/o U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
**1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121**  
**Anchorage, AK 99503**  
**Phone: (907) 786-3888, Fax (907) 786-3898**  
**Toll Free: 1-800-478-1456**

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**FEB 12 2014**

Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary of the Interior  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office of the Secretary  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

The Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) is one of the ten Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils formed under Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Section 805 of ANILCA and the Council's charter establish its authority to initiate, review, and evaluate regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters related to subsistence on Federal public lands and waters within the Western Interior Alaska region. The Council provides a regional forum for discussion and recommendations for subsistence related issues on public lands.

All of the Councils are dealing with an extremely late completion of the annual Secretarial Appointment process to fill Council seats. The delay also happened last year, and this Council sent a letter to you expressing concerns about the problem (see enclosure). This year's delay is even worse than last year, making each year progressively later in completing official appointments. Terms expired on December 2, 2013 for three seats on our Council. It is now February 11, less than 3 weeks before our winter meeting—we only just received word on February 6, 2014 on appointments for two seats and the question remains as to who will be appointed to fill the third seat.

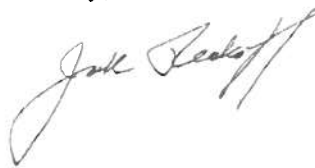
The delay in appointments has had a negative effect on the planning and execution of important and extensive work which must be completed in a timely manner prior to our meetings. Further, these delays have discouraged applicants and future applicants from serving on the Council. This is a disastrous consequence given the steady decrease in the number of applications in recent years. Our Council wishes to re-emphasize that steps must be taken to ensure delays in



appointments do not continue. We suggest our Council charters be amended to allow for a member to continue serving until official Secretarial Appointments are made.

It is an important role for this Council, and others, to assist the Federal Subsistence Program in meeting its charge of protecting subsistence resources and uses of these resources on public lands and waters in Alaska. We cannot fulfill our role when timely appointments to fill vacant seats are not given a priority. If you have questions about this letter, please contact me via Melinda Burke, Subsistence Council Coordinator, with the Office of Subsistence Management at 1-800-478-1456 or (907) 786-3885.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jack Reakoff", written in a cursive style.

Jack Reakoff, Chair

Enclosure

cc: Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture, USDA  
Laura Marquez, White House Liaison  
Pat Pourchot, Special Assistant for Alaska Affairs, DOI  
Geoff Haskett, Regional Director, USFWS Region 7  
Eugene R. Peltola Jr., Assistant Regional Director, OSM  
Karen Hyer, Acting Deputy Assistant Regional Director, OSM  
David Jenkins, Policy Coordinator, OSM  
Carl Johnson, Council Coordination Division Chief, OSM  
Federal Subsistence Board  
Interagency Staff Committee  
Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
Administrative Record